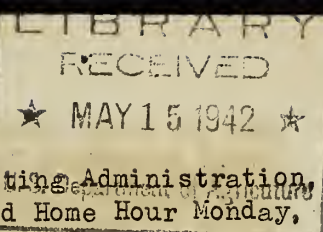


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FOOD FOR LEND-LEASE



Broadcast by Roy F. Hendrickson, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Administration, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour Monday, April 27, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

The big job of the American farmer is to produce food for our folks here at home--for our Army and our Navy, wherever they may be--and for our allies. Secretary Wickard asked for large production of pork, eggs, tomatoes--to mention a few of the many commodities. He asked for this increased production so that all the peoples in this country and the allied nations can be adequately fed. He assigned the job of buying for Lend-Lease shipments to the Agricultural Marketing Administration. Today, Roy F. Hendrickson, Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Administration is here to report on these Lend-Lease purchases. -- -- Mr. Hendrickson

HENDRICKSON:

Sometimes I wonder, does the average farmer realize just how big, and how important a job he has today? I keep asking myself this question. Just think, without food--food filled with minerals and crammed with proteins and vitamins--there could be no allied soldiers able to make forced marches. They would have no stamina to meet the enemy with the full force of their skill and training. Without the products of the farm there could be no clear-eyed, steady-nerved flyers. Nor could there be sturdy workers to make the machines of war, nor a healthy youth to grow up to fight and make the peace. Yes, this country's farmers are playing a great part in this war.

Our job in the Agricultural Marketing Administration is to narrow the gap between the farm and the battlefields of Democracy. We are geared to speedy and economic purchase and distribution of food. During the past 12 months we have bought more than 3 million dollars worth of farm products a day for the United Nations, under the Lend-Lease Act.

The big problems are time and space. Time--getting our food products to their destination as quickly as we can. Space--making the best use of the very precious rail and shipping facilities. Time and space problems are being licked.

Let me tell you about something that happened a short while ago. Of course, I can't tell you exactly when nor where. At a certain point off our Atlantic Coast, several of our warships were converging. They were assembling to meet and convoy a fleet of cargo ships loaded with food and war supplies. These ships were all due to meet on a certain Monday night. One by one, the cargo ships slipped out of various ports along our eastern coast.

But, a couple of ships at a certain port were only partially filled. The supplies they were scheduled to carry had been delayed somewhere along the transportation route. Those two ships still needed about 10 thousand tons each to complete their load. Unless they got it they would miss the convoy.

The Agricultural Marketing Administration learned of this situation on a Saturday afternoon. By that time many offices and factories were closing down for the weekend. Now the tickers in our New York office tell a continuous story, day and night, of the whereabouts of thousands of carloads of food products. So, our

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men got busy, spotting the needed additional supplies. They issued orders to rush these shipments to the proper port. The railroads made up special trains and got them rolling--and on Sunday morning, less than a day later, the cars were on the docks at the ship side. Early that morning messengers routed out sleepy stevedores. They worked hard all day. That evening the two ships were completely filled, and on their way to join the waiting convoy. Thus ended another small but significant success story, which few people, up till now, knew about. The important thing--is that time was conquered.

Now, what about space?.....That's always a problem in time of war. Every bit of space that we can save definitely shortens the gap between our fields of food and the far-flung battle fields.

Dehydration is one of the solutions. An example is dried eggs. Dried eggs don't break. They won't spoil as long as they're kept dry. They keep their food value and flavor. And, what is more important, they take up only a fraction of the room that shell eggs do. Just one barrel of dried eggs replaces seventeen and a half cases of eggs in the shell. Many other foods are being dehydrated, and I'm glad to be able to report that the Department of Agriculture and processors are perfecting methods to dehydrate a still greater variety. For example, we're working on a process to dehydrate cheese. It'll come in a flour-like form. Then, by simply adding a certain amount of water the mixture can be formed into a cake that is very much like processed cheese.

The Department is working with packers on a method of dehydrating meat. This is a new development. A hundred pounds of boneless beef can be reduced to 30 or 40 pounds of meat powder. Add twice its weight of water and you can make excellent meat pie, hamburger, or croquettes.

This whole food drying idea is fascinating--besides being one hundred percent practical. Just to give you an idea of how it has grown, let me go back to dried eggs. A year ago, only a few companies in this country operated egg-drying plants--mostly on a part-time basis. On a full-time basis these drying plants could have turned out from 40 to 50 million pounds a year. Now the capacity is around 250 million pounds a year. That's just for eggs. And let me add, powdered skim milk is being turned out at the rate of over half a billion pounds a year.

And while we're talking in large numbers--let me report on some of the "Food for Freedom" purchases of the Agricultural Marketing Administration. We have purchased well over two billion pounds of dairy and egg products--nearly a billion and a half pounds of meats--about a billion pounds of vegetables--dried beans lead the list at over 300 million pounds. In one recent week we bought enough beans to fill three trains of more than one hundred cars each. I hope those figures give you an idea of our food purchases so far. But, we haven't finished--not by any means. We're getting set to take a good share of what may be the greatest crop year in the history of American Agriculture.

It all sums up to this--American farmers have a terrific responsibility--the job of feeding the American soldiers and civilians, as well as our fighting allies. You folks are producing this food. We in the Department of Agriculture will do our best to place it where it will do the most good.